(d) if so, the reasons therefor and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) An MoU has been signed in January, 2003 between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India and Ministry of Petroleum Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector including import of LNG from Iran to India, assistance in refinery revamp, development of CNG in Iran etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the national interest and to obtain best possible terms, the terms and conditions require in depth examination and entail protracted negotiations between the oil companies of both the countries.

Dispute in exploration of Oil in Jaisalmer

†962. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether digging is going on in Myal Jar area due to the possibility of huge reserves of oil and gas in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is any dispute between ONGC and Rashtriya Maru Udhyan regarding this project;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to get the project completed and to end the dispute; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No drilling is underway today in Maijalar area in Jaisalmer basin of the State of Rajasthan.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has identified an exploratory location for drilling a well to assess the hydrocarbon potential of Miajalar area. However, the proposed drill site and part of the approach road fall within the Desert National Park (DNP) area and permission for drilling a well is not available to ONGC.

(c) and (d) ONGC had filed a writ petition with Hon'ble Supreme Court, for grant of permission to work in the DNP and the matter is under consideration in terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.